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RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 SOFIA 001271

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [BU](#)

SUBJECT: STRATEGY TO SHAPE BULGARIA'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION

REF: A. A) SOFIA 1219

[B](#). B) 1206

Classified By: Ambassador John Beyrle for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (S) Summary: A recent Council of Minister's decision to revise Bulgaria's "Plan 2015" military modernization roadmap represents an important TIGHT TIMELINES AND TIGHTER BUDGETS

[1](#)2. (S) A protracted teachers strike and ongoing "transition fatigue" have increased pressure on the government to shift resources to domestic

[1](#)3. (S) We plan to present the government of Bulgaria with the following proposals and to use these points as the basis for our advocacy in guiding PRIORITIES

[1](#)4. (S) I. Deployability: Although Bulgaria possesses nearly 40,000 servicemembers, it has no means to deploy and very limited means to sustain

[1](#)5. (S) II. Reduce Waste: Bulgaria should be encouraged to realize savings through elimination of defense elements that are ineffective or incc

[1](#)6. (S) III. Avoid Budget-Busting Mega-Procurements: Bulgaria has been under intense pressure from France to sign a massive ship procurement de

[1](#)7. (S) IV. Maintain Niche Capabilities: Bulgaria currently has three 5-member military medical teams in Afghanistan and a 42-person engineerir

RECOMMENDATIONS BY SERVICE

[1](#)8. (S) Army: Encourage planners to fence off funds for requirements essential to overseas deployments, such as armored vehicles, body armor, t

[1](#)9. (S) Air Force: Theater lift capability will improve with the purchase of five C-27Js (one per year for the next five years with first deliv

[1](#)10. (S) Navy: We will continue to caution Bulgaria against a massive expenditure on French Corvettes (at least over the short to mid-term), ar

[1](#)11. (S) Comment: The upcoming revision of "Plan 2015" presents a valuable opportunity to shape Bulgaria's future force structure and military Beyrle